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In Memoriam.

Martin Luther Hall.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.





Martin Luther Hall.

Born, February 23, 1802.

Died, February 20, 1875.



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BOSTON.



Biographical Sketch.

MARTIN L. HALL was born in Raynham, in the County of Bristol, in this State, on the twenty-third day of February, in the year 1802. He was the fifth son of Seth and Selina Hall. His father was a farmer, in moderate circumstances; and his son Martin worked, as a farmer, until he had passed his majority, when he commenced his business career in Boston. Raynham is a small farming town, situated east of Taunton, which it adjoins, and of which it was formerly a part. Its present population is about 1700.

SETH HALL, the father of the subject of this sketch, was a peculiar man. Honest, sagacious, well founded in Scripture, devoted to strict and conscientious duty himself, and a stern judge of the professions and practices of others, he could not find, in the creed or conduct of any of the Christian denominations, that which satisfied himself; and, believing that he was called so to do, he preached and exhorted, as opportunity offered, as an independent controversialist. He died at the age of eighty-four.

Honest, industrious, hard-working, with but few opportunities for education or culture, the son Martin lived and labored in this life of toil during his early years. But his career was not to be the lot of those conspicuous for "their useful toil, their homely joys, and destiny obscure." He was bound for the metropolis, and to be a merchant.

In the year 1829 he went to Boston, and with a few hundred dollars of his hard

earned savings, he entered the provision business in copartnership with his brother. His place of business was on Cambridge Street; but although he was careful and industrious, prudent and energetic, this business, from unexpected embarrassments, resulted, without fault on his part, in a mortifying failure.

In 1835, Mr. Hall entered into a copartnership with his cousin, Stephen Hall, under the firm of Stephen Hall & Co., in the general grocery business; in which he continued, after the retiring of Mr. Stephen Hall in 1850, under the name of Martin L. Hall & Co., until his decease. In the last named firm, Mr. Adoniram J. Adams was a copartner and trusted friend from 1850; and he is one of the persons named in Mr. Hall's will, as an executor and trustee.

The business was carried on at the well-known stand in Faneuil Hall Square; and Mr. Hall gave to it his whole energy and industry, and made it a success. As a

business man, Mr. Hall was noted for his sound judgment, tact, and shrewdness. He was a good buyer, — cautious, intelligent, and sagacious. His customers relied upon his honesty, and fair dealing, and truthfulness, and his success in business naturally followed. By his patience, skill, and care in his investments, our friend attained a high position as a merchant, and a fortune sufficient for all his reasonable desires.

March 30th, 1857, Mr. Hall was united in marriage to Miss JOSEPHINE GOODWIN, who, with one son, survives him.

In 1859, Mr. Hall became a citizen of Brookline, and commenced attending public worship with the Harvard Church.

Although not actively engaged in the local politics of the town, and never having held an office, Mr. Hall was interested in its government, and in the management of its affairs. He gave a signal proof of his attachment to the chosen place of his resi-

dence, and his respect for the cause of education, and his love of true culture, in a legacy to the town, of five thousand dollars, for its Public Library.

Early in the summer of 1870, the Harvard Church and Society became interested in the plan of a new church edifice, and another location in Brookline. The congregation was increasing in numbers; this increase seemed to be tending towards Beacon Street and Longwood; there was a desire for a church in that vicinity, and a strong movement was commenced for the new church building, near the intersection of Harvard and Beacon Streets. In this, Mr. Hall took a deep interest. Mr. EDWARD T. POTTER, a distinguished architect of New York, had presented the plans subsequently adopted, the completion of which has added so much to his reputation as an ecclesiastical architect, and so greatly adorned the attractive suburbs of our metropolis. This church design, in all its

graceful completeness, was not only approved by a general sentiment of enthusiasm, but it won the heart of Mr. Hall, and suffused his whole being with a reverential love, that never forsook him while life remained.

June 1, 1870, Mr. Hall was appointed Chairman of a Committee to purchase a lot for the new church; the location, on the corner of Harvard and Marion Streets, selected by Mr. Hall, was secured in July; and in September, 1870, the Society accepted Mr. Potter's plans, and authorized a Building Committee, of which Mr. Hall was Chairman, to proceed in the erection of the church edifice.

Mr. Hall personally superintended this work, almost in detail; he made the contracts,—he conferred with the architect and the several contractors,—he was on duty daily in the work which he had made the business of his life,—and he furnished the material aid when required.

July 6, 1871, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies. Mr. Hall was present, and himself placed beneath the stone the box containing the selected memorials. An interesting address was made by Rev. Dr. NEHEMIAH ADAMS, and the history of the Church and Society read by the Chairman of the Prudential Committee. The occasion was memorable, and Mr. Hall was earnest, joyous, and hopeful.

The building was so far completed, in the spring of 1873, that it was ready for occupancy, and dedicated for the worship of God, May 8, 1873, with the solemn service of prayer and praise. Rev. Dr. RICHARD S. STORRS, of Brooklyn, N. Y., the first pastor of the Church and Society, addressed the large congregation, in a discourse of transcendent eloquence and power.

In the Spring of 1874, the tower was finished. The cost of the church edifice,

thus completed, was large, amounting, with the price of the land, to about \$130,000. There was a large debt outstanding, which threatened to be embarrassing. A committee of the Society were actively engaged in efforts to reduce or extinguish this indebtedness. It was reserved for Mr. Hall, as it was his privilege and high honor, to present and complete a scheme, which successfully met and removed all impending embarrassments. He thought, that if the Society was free from debt, the Christian benevolence of the worshippers would by voluntary gifts sustain the preaching of the gospel. To effect this, Mr. Hall gave the sum of forty thousand dollars. Others contributed about twenty thousand dollars : owners of pews, with scarcely an exception, surrendered their pews ; and the Society adopted in detail the regulations suggested by Mr. Hall, for the management of its secular concerns, and for the support of worship in the new church edifice. In all,

Mr. Hall has contributed toward the church building fund the sum of forty-five thousand dollars.

It is well known that the warm and generous heart of Mr. Hall was devising other liberal things for his beloved church. He was not satisfied with his efforts in completing what he loved to call "our beautiful church;" but of late he was strongly moved to provide a dwelling for his new pastor, in whose coming he was greatly interested. Plans of a parsonage, as directed by him, had been prepared; and his orders were for the most liberal provisions. But all this was not to be. In the midst of his active duties, — life's work not yet wholly done,—the faithful laborer is called away from the noblest duties of his life—his church work. The good man has fallen, with his harness on.

The departure of our friend from the scenes of his happy and useful career, was

unexpected. He had attended divine service, as usual, on Sabbath, February 14th, and greeted his friends with his accustomed urbanity. On the following Tuesday, he went to his store in Boston, appearing to his partners there, as bright and cheerful as ever. Upon his return home he was seized with a bilious colic, for which he was medically treated, continuing somewhat indisposed, until sundown of the next Saturday, when his case assumed a more serious and alarming aspect. In great distress, he continued until shortly after ten o'clock in the evening: when speaking kindly to his family, he said "The end is come," and in the presence of the beloved ones, he gently breathed his last.

On the next Sabbath morning, as his fellow worshippers were gathering in that beautiful temple, to him so dear, they were surprised and grieved with the sad intelligence of the mournful event. The whole congregation was profoundly affected.

Suitable notice was taken by the officiating clergyman,—Rev. Dr. CLARK, of Albany,—of the great loss now sustained by the Society.

On Wednesday afternoon, February 24th, the funeral services were holden in the church. A large assembly was gathered there, to pay the last duties of respect and honor to their departed friend. The occasion was marked with deep interest. Rev. Dr. WEBB, of Boston, conducted the services, most tenderly and impressively. The remains were deposited in the family lot at Mount Auburn, in the presence of the immediate family, relatives, and friends of the deceased, and the committee and officers of Harvard Congregational Church and Society.

In the evening of the same day, a large meeting of the members of the congregation took place in the Chapel, and full expression was given to the feelings of those assembled, upon the occasion of their recent loss. A

committee was appointed to prepare a suitable testimonial: and their report, hereto appended, was presented, and unanimously adopted by the whole congregation, after divine service, in the evening of Sabbath, February 28th, 1875: and ordered to be extended upon the records of the Harvard Congregational Society.





Memorial Tribute

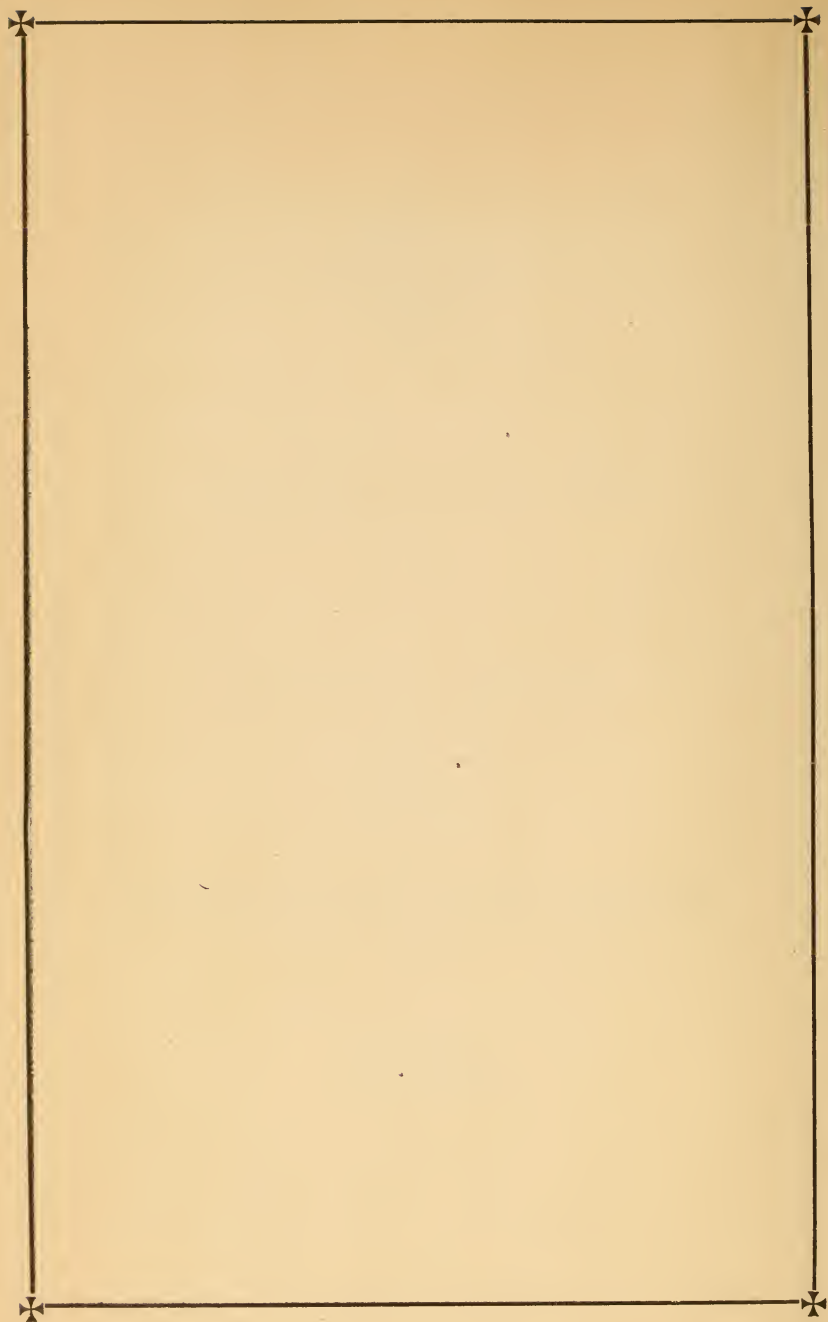
AND

RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED BY THE

Harvard Congregational Society.







Memorial Tribute and Resolutions.

WEVER has Harvard Church or Society given expression, by recorded action, upon the loss of any of its departed. We have mingled our tears with the bereaved, have mourned with those who mourn, and in prayers, and hymns, and spiritual lessons, have noted these events as they occurred. But now and here, it is becoming that our recent loss should be marked by a thoughtful and emphatic utterance.

Our friend, who has just left us, had been, for many years, a trusted, honored and successful merchant in Boston, when he removed to Brookline and became a

worshipper with us. Sustaining all his duties as parishioner and citizen with fidelity, our brother, about five years ago, became interested in the erection of this church edifice. This was the mission and glory of his life.

When David, the servant of God, had it in his mind to build a house unto the name of the Lord his God,—he piously resolved, “that the house to be builded for the Lord must be exceeding magnifical, of fame, and of glory throughout all countries.” Thus, our brother seems to have been inspired, and to have offered willingly of the substance which God had given him, “to build a house for his Holy Name.” Not only had he a mind to this work, but his whole being and his daily life were in it. He was “a doorkeeper in the house of his God.”

He watched every step of its progress, from the turning of the first green sod to the placing of the top-stone upon the tower. How patiently he waited for the “hewers

and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work," and when the walls were all well laid, and the graceful mouldings and sculpture completed, and the history of God's providence and the life of our blessed Lord unfolded in living colors upon its windows, and the beautiful spire built heavenward, and its summit at last crowned with the symbol of our faith, our dear brother saw that it was "good," and he blessed his God for it with a thank-offering of oriental munificence. Our beautiful temple,—God's House,—the worship of our blessed Lord free to all,—these were the inspirations of his later years. This house of God was a delight to him. It was his joy and crown. He could say, "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord."

But his earthly mission is ended. No more with us shall meet the friend, the counsellor. Never more in this temple,—never at our boards of counsel. Our hearts

are sorrowful. To us it would seem to have been well that he should have been spared to his family and friends, and that his gracious presence should have remained a benediction here. We could have wished for this church that our brother had lived to complete those plans, so kindly cherished by him for its further prosperity. It would have been pleasant for him to have met again the pastor, whose advent he had so long desired. But all this was not for him, or for us. God reigns. We bow in submission.

Yet the true spirit of this occasion is not that of mourning. We have borne our brother to his last resting place, not "with dirges due in sad array," but as a jubilant host, with triumphal anthems. The Lord saith, "Them that honor Me, I will honor." And again, "Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house." Our brother has left the beautiful temple which he loved so well, for that heavenly city wherein "there is no temple,

for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."

Let us then, as a congregation, assembled in this house of God, upon the Lord's day, adopt these brief resolves :—

Resolved, That, in the departure from earth of our honored friend MARTIN LUTHER HALL, we recognize the summons of our Heavenly Father, and bow in submission to His Divine will, being assured, that "He doeth all things well," and that all things are good to those that love Him.

Resolved, That our deceased friend, through his munificent liberality, and by his untiring watchfulness and unceasing zeal, as Chairman of the Prudential and Building Committees of this Society, from the first inception of our beautiful new temple to its completion, and to his own dying hour, has placed us under a debt of gratitude impossible to be rewarded by man, but which, we believe, is blessed of Heaven.

Resolved, That, in the devotion of his later years to the honor and service of God in His sanctuary, our friend has given a distinguished example, which may well be commended to the practice of the business men of this and every community.

Resolved, That we tender our sincere sympathy to the bereaved widow and son of our friend, earnestly commending them, in their dark hour, to Him from whom proceed all consolation and peace.

And now, above our sorrows and our tears, with joy, and hope, and faith, let us reverently join in that devout ascription, in which our departed brother and all of us united, when he and we together laid the corner stone of this, God's earthly house :

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.”

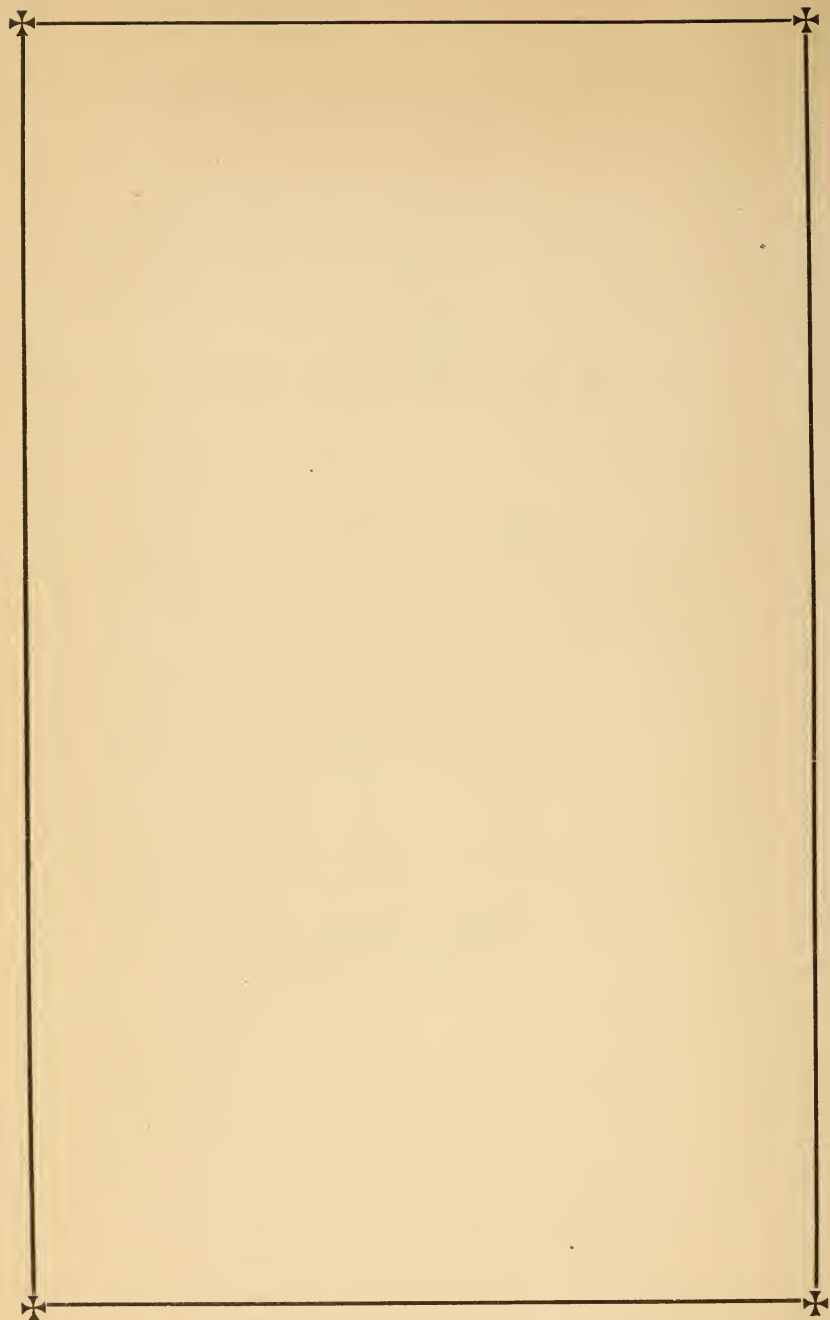


Resolutions

ADOPTED BY THE

Harvard Church.







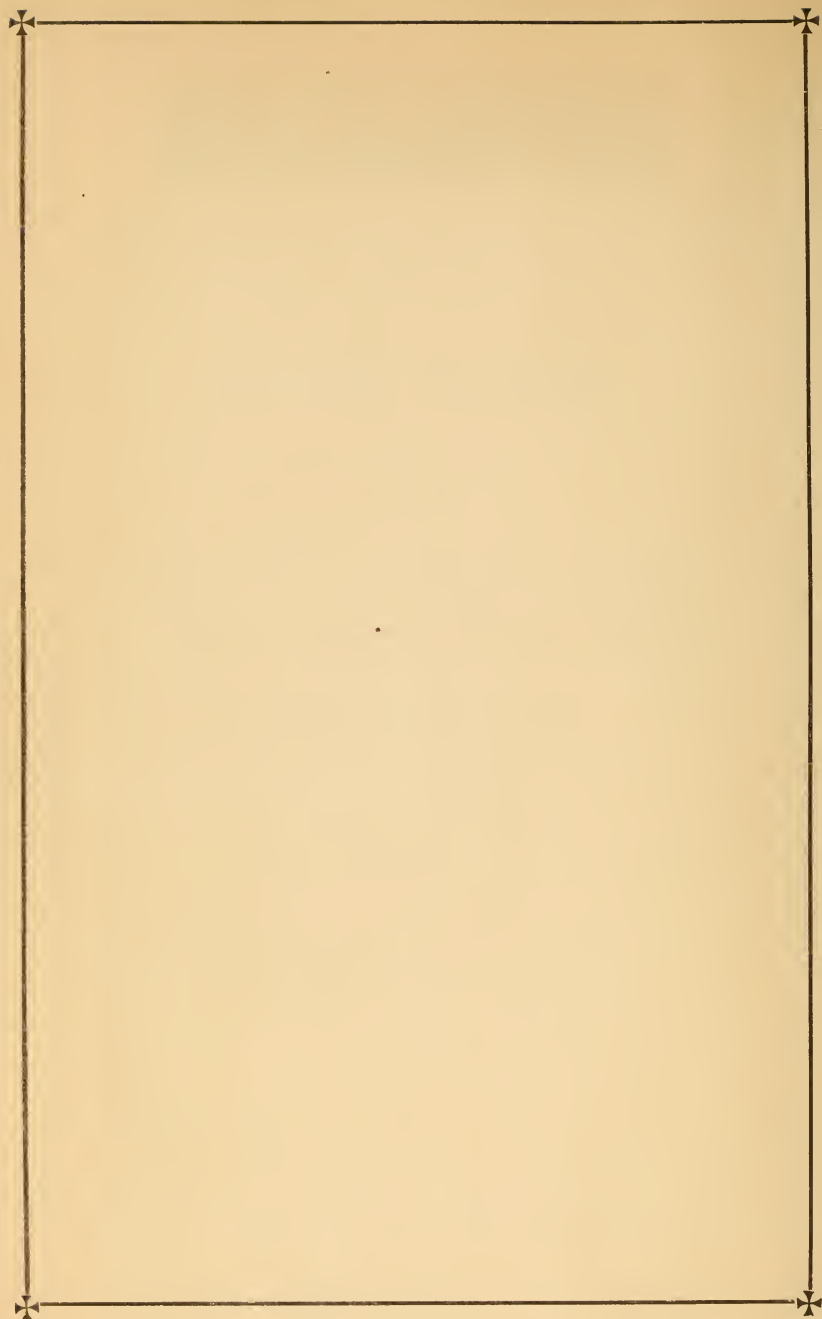
Harvard Church.



AT the meeting of HARVARD CHURCH,
Brookline, March 5th, it was —

Voted, That the following Preamble
and Resolutions be adopted, spread
upon the records of the Church, and a
copy thereof sent to the family.

H. B. EAGER,
Clerk of Harvard Church.





Preamble and Resolutions.

WHEREAS, Our Heavenly Father, in His all-wise providence, has taken from the earth our esteemed and beloved friend,

Mr. MARTIN LUTHER HALL,

the Harvard Church, deeply feeling the great loss they have sustained, adopt the following Resolutions :

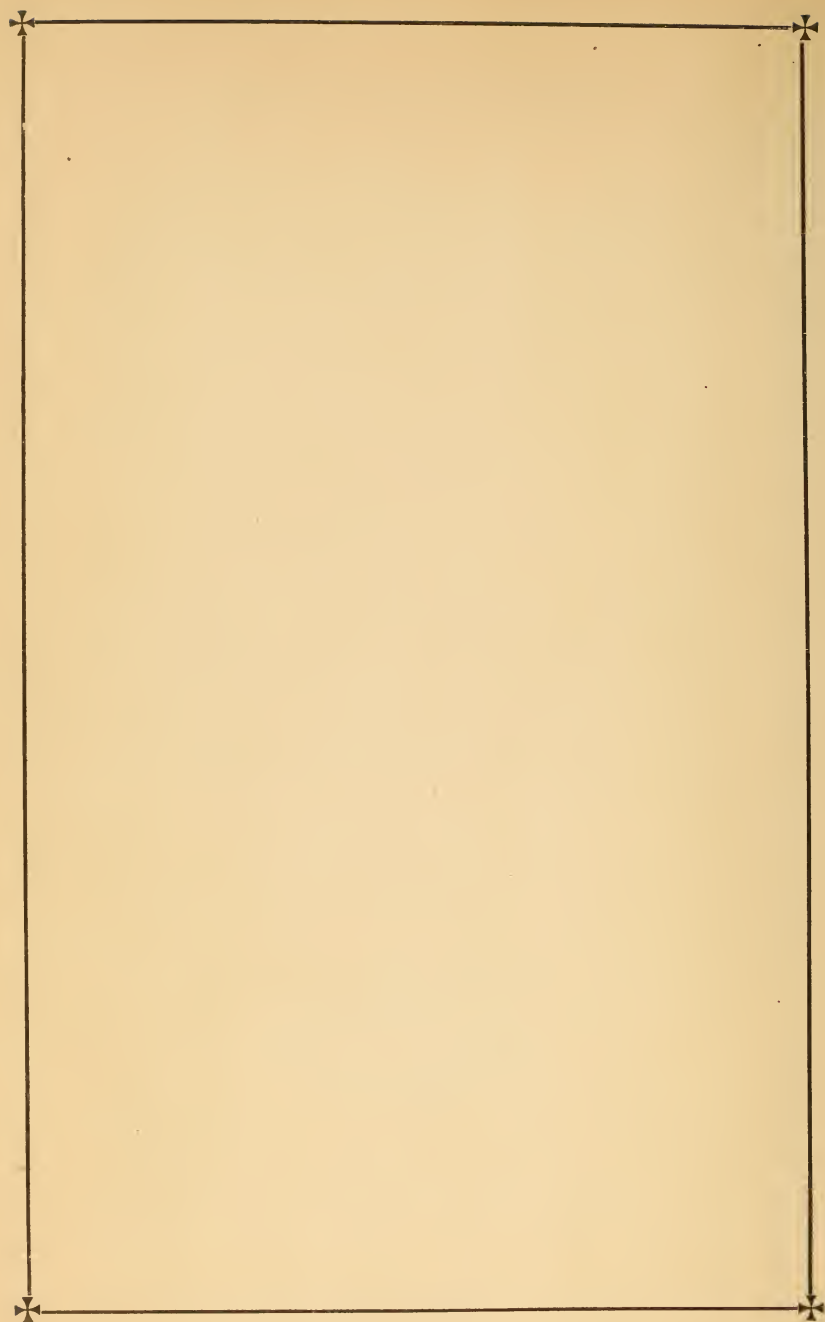
Resolved, That in bowing submissively to the will of Him who cannot err, and who does "not willingly afflict the children of men," we desire to gratefully acknowledge the good hand of our God upon us, in raising up for this Society such an active and liberal benefactor, and in sparing his life to so nearly complete the benevolent plans he had devised for it.

Resolved, That while we mourn our great loss, we are happy to cherish the memory of our friend and benefactor, as a man of integrity and sound judgment,—of kind and sympathetic heart,—of large views, and great liberality in sustaining them by his ample resources, with rare modesty and without ostentation.

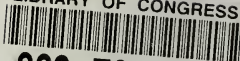
Resolved, That we desire to publicly acknowledge our indebtedness to him, as Chairman of the Building Committee of the Harvard Church edifice, for the erection of this house in its grand proportions and beautiful adornments, securing as he did, by the unceasing devotion of his time and thought, great thoroughness of construction, with every convenience for its sacred uses ; and especially our obligations for his noble pecuniary gifts, amounting to nearly fifty thousand dollars, to provide for its completion without debt, and to offer its privileges, “ without money and without price,” to every one who may wish to attend.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with his bereaved family in this their irreparable loss, and pray God to sustain, comfort, and sanctify them ; and remembering the plea of the elders of the Jews to our Lord Jesus, in behalf of the centurion, — “That he was worthy for whom He should do this ; for he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue,” we earnestly commend them to the gracious care of Him who is not unrighteous to forget *any* labor of love, but has a reward for the giver of even a cup of cold water to His disciples.





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